

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY BURNS AND BURRELL AND SENATOR  
PEACOCK

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Reece Middleton for his outstanding service and  
accomplishments in the field of gambling addiction treatment management

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Reece Middleton for his outstanding service and accomplishments in the field  
3 of gambling addiction treatment management in Shreveport, Louisiana, as well as  
4 his pioneering contributions to the field of treatment of such addiction.

5 WHEREAS, Reece Middleton of Shreveport, Louisiana, has made significant  
6 contributions to having pathological gambling classified by the American Psychological  
7 Association as an addictive disorder and giving recognition to its enormous social,  
8 economic, and psychological implications as a contributing factor to domestic violence,  
9 bankruptcy, crime, depression, or even suicide; and

10 WHEREAS, cost-effective, quality assistance, treatment, and counseling for  
11 Louisianians who are affected by problem gambling are necessary and appropriate services  
12 to be provided by the professional community; and

13 WHEREAS, Reece Middleton, MA, LAC, CCGC, who holds extensive educational  
14 and professional credentials in all aspects of the areas of gambling addiction treatment  
15 management and counseling, has used his experience and training in numerous and varied  
16 positions throughout his long career including program director, employee assistance  
17 specialist, marketing director, referrals development, counselor, clinical director, and most  
18 notably as executive director of the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling and  
19 founder of the Center of Recovery (CORE), a residential facility located in Shreveport that

1 provides treatment to address complex diagnostic issues, serious relapse factors, and medical  
2 psychiatric instability; and

3 WHEREAS, CORE's treatment protocol includes individual, group, and family-  
4 oriented counseling that is more individualized than other substance abuse counseling and  
5 that includes financial, budget, and remuneration planning and holistically addresses an  
6 addict's need for education in addition to addiction therapy; and

7 WHEREAS, CORE is operated in partnership with the Louisiana Association on  
8 Compulsive Gambling and in conjunction with the Louisiana Problem Gambler Helpline,  
9 is funded by grants, individual donations, government grants, and contributions from the  
10 private sector, including the casino industry, and provides its counseling services free of  
11 charge to Louisiana residents; and

12 WHEREAS, CORE has become a model for other state and tribe-funded residential  
13 gambling disorder treatment facilities across the country and engenders a positive  
14 relationship with the state's casino industry, through educating gaming employees about  
15 pathological gambling and available treatment options, based on the industry's shared  
16 mission to help those problem gamblers who need help; and

17 WHEREAS, during his long career, Mr. Middleton has also served on the board of  
18 directors of the National Council on Problem Gambling; hosted the National Conference on  
19 Gambling Behavior in New Orleans, Louisiana; chaired the Louisiana State Conference on  
20 Gambling Behavior; and held memberships in the National Association of Alcoholism and  
21 Drug Abuse Counselors, the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and  
22 Trainers, and the National Council on Problem Gambling, Inc.; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton has made numerous contributions to the field in general  
24 by lending his expertise in presentations to numerous professional groups in this state and  
25 nationally, including the American Bar Association, National Conference on Gambling  
26 Behavior, Louisiana State District Attorney's Conference, National Center for Responsible  
27 Gaming-Las Vegas, Louisiana State Gaming Control Board, 15th International Conference  
28 on Gambling and Risk Taking, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
29 Treatment Directors, National Council of Legislators from Gaming States, National Black

1 Caucus of State Legislators, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the  
2 27th National Conference on Problem Gambling, among many others; and

3 WHEREAS, the achievement most deserving of recognition remains his founding  
4 of the CORE program, to which countless participants attribute their recovery from  
5 gambling addiction and the reversal of their life's course, including regaining their dignity,  
6 their familial connections, and their productivity within society, and through which many  
7 have themselves gone on to participate as advocates in the cause of helping other problem  
8 gamblers overcome addiction; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton, ever the consummate professional, although recently  
10 retired, remains available to his successors, who will continue the challenging work of  
11 administering the CORE program, in order to ensure a smooth transition that will continue  
12 to benefit those in need of its resources; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton's cumulative endeavors are indicative of his lifelong  
14 dedication to defining and addressing the issue of gambling addiction on a personal and  
15 societal level for the betterment of the state of Louisiana and her citizens.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reece Middleton for his unprecedented  
18 contributions to the recovery of numerous individual gambling addicts and to the field of  
19 study and training in all aspects of gambling addiction treatment management and  
20 counseling which have positively impacted the lives of so many Louisianians.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
22 to Mr. Reece Middleton of Shreveport, Louisiana.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Henry Burns

HR No. 18

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